to the said official referees, so far as relates to the revocation of their authority, that the power and authority of the official referees shall not be revocable by any party to such reference, without the consent of all parties thereto; and that although any party shall not attend upon such reference it shall be lawful for such official referees to proceed with the reference, and to make their award.

Taking of Evidence by the Official Referees—Appointment of Time and Place—Compensation for Attendance—Production of Documents—Administration of Oaths—Penalty for false Evidence.

85. And be it enacted, with regard to such reference, so far as relates to the evidence of any matter thereof, that it shall be lawful for the official referees and they are hereby empowered, by their summons in writing sealed with the seal of office of the registrar of metropolitan buildings, to require the attendance of any person who may be able to give evidence in the matter of any reference to them, and to require by such summons the production of any documents to be mentioned therein; and that if in addition to the service of such summons, an appointment of the time and place of attendance in obedience thereto, signed by one at least of the official referees before whom the attendance is required, be also served either together with or after the service of such summons, then, if the party so summoned do not attend in obedience thereto, such party shall be liable to be proceeded against as for a contempt of court; and that every person whose attendance shall be required shall be entitled to the like conduct money and payment of expenses as for and upon attendance at any trial; and that no person shall be compelled to produce under any such summons any writing or other document that he would not be compelled to produce at a trial, or to attend on more than two consecutive days to be named in such summons; and that it shall be lawful for the official referees and they are hereby respectively authorized and required to administer an oath to such witnesses as may come before them, or, in cases where affirmation is allowed by law instead of an oath, to take their affirmation; and that if upon such oath or affirmation any person making the same wilfully and corruptly give false evidence, then every person so offending shall be deemed to be guilty of perjury.

Effect of Awards as Evidence.

86. And be it enacted, with regard to such award, so far as relates to the effect thereof as evidence of the matter thereof, that if on the trial or hearing of any cause or matter in any court of law or equity, or elsewhere, any copy of an award, signed and sealed with the seal of the said registrar, be produced, then it shall be the duty of all judges, justices, and others, and they are hereby required, to receive the same as *primâ facie* evidence of the matters therein contained.

Declaration of Official Fidelity.

87. And be it enacted, with regard to the official referees, so far as relates to the declaration of official fidelity, that before any official referee shall act in pursuance of his appointment it shall be his duty and he is hereby required to make the following declaration, to be administered by the Chief Baron or any other of the Barons of her Majesty's Court of Exchequer; that is to say,

"I, *A. B.*, do solemnly declare, that I will diligently, faithfully, and impartially execute the duties of an official referee in relation to matters arising under the provisions of the Act made and passed in the eighth year of the reign of her Majesty Queen *Victoria*, intituled *An Act for regulating the Construction and the Use of Buildings in the Metropolis and its Neighbourhood*, and commonly called the Metropolitan Buildings Act."

Regulation of Business of the Official Referees—Official Referees may delegate Powers.

88. And be it enacted, with regard to such official referees, so far as relates to the regulation of the business of their office, that when any matter is by this Act required, directed, or permitted to be done by the official referees the same may be done by either of them, with the assent of the Registrar of Metropolitan Buildings, unless express provision to the contrary be made, and if done by any one of them with such assent it shall be as valid and effectual as if done by both of them; and that, subject to such restrictions and regulations as may be made in that behalf by the Commissioners of Works and Buildings, it shall be lawful for the official referees to appoint one of their number, under their hands and the seal of the Registrar of Metropolitan Buildings, to make any inquiry or any survey which shall appear to them either necessary or expedient in order to enable them to determine any matters in reference.

REGISTRAR OF METROPOLITAN BUILDINGS.

Appointment of Registrar—Tenure of Office—Rules of Office—Seal of Office—Use of Seal of Office—Report of Objections by Registrars—Authority of Commissioners of Works—Interim Registrar.

89. And for the purpose of duly recording relaxations of the requisitions of this Act, made in pursuance of the provisions hereof in that behalf, and of providing for the revision from time to time both of such relaxations and requisitions, and of providing against the partial exercise of the powers of this Act, and for the more effectually providing for the due recording of the Acts of the official referees, and for exercising a due control thereon, be it enacted, that it shall be lawful for the Commissioners of Works and Buildings, and they are hereby authorized and required, to appoint a Registrar of Metropolitan Buildings; and that such registrar shall hold his office during the pleasure of the said commissioners; and that, subject to the provisions of this Act, it shall be lawful for the said commissioners to make rules for regulating the execution of the duties of the office of the said registrar; and that it shall be the duty of such registrar to keep a seal, and to affix such seal to all documents made by the said official referees, and required to be sealed, and to keep all the documents and records relating to the business of their office, and to register the same: Provided always, with regard to such registrar, so far as relates to the affixing the seal of office to any document, that if it shall appear to the said registrar that any such documents are contrary to law, or not complete in any of the requisite forms, or beyond the competence of the said official referees, either with regard to the provisions of this Act, or any rules or regulations prescribed for their guidance by the said Commissioners of Works and Buildings, then it shall be the duty of the said registrar to refuse to affix the seal, and that thereafter, if the said official referees shall so require, it shall be his duty and he is hereby required to report the matter, and the particular grounds and reasons for his refusal, to the said commissioners; and that upon the receipt of such report it shall be lawful for the said commissioners to authorize the said registrar to affix the seal, or to confirm his refusal: Provided always, with regard to such office of registrar, so far as relates to the execution of his duties in certain events, that if such registrar be ill, or otherwise unable to discharge the duties of his said office, or if he be absent, then it shall be lawful for the said Commissioners of Works and Buildings to appoint some other person to act temporarily in his behalf, and to assign to such person such part of the remuneration of the said registrar, or otherwise to remunerate him, as the Lords of the Treasury shall appoint in that behalf.

Declaration of official Fidelity.

90. And be it enacted, with regard to the registrar, so far as relates to the declaration of official fidelity, that before any registrar shall act in pursuance of his appointment it shall be his duty and he is hereby required to make the following declaration, to be administered by the Chief Baron or any other of the barons of her Majesty's Court of Exchequer; that is to say,

"I, *A. B.*, do solemnly declare, that I will diligently, faithfully, and impartially execute the duties of registrar in relation to matters arising under the provisions of an Act made and passed in the eighth year of the reign of her Majesty Queen *Victoria*, intituled *An Act for regulating the Construction and the Use of Buildings in the Metropolis and its Neighbourhood*, and commonly called the Metropolitan Buildings Act."

Custody and Inspection of Records of Official Referees—Copies of Awards, Certificates, &c.—Authentication of Copy, and Fees therefor.

91. And be it enacted, with regard to such awards, certificate, and other records of the said official referees, so far as relates to the custody and the inspection thereof, that all such awards, certificates, and other documents relating to the business of their office shall be kept in the office of the registrar of metropolitan buildings; and that if, for the purpose of evidence or otherwise, any party require a copy of such award, or certificate, or other document, or to inspect the same, then on payment of the expense thereof, and of such fees as may be appointed in that behalf, it shall be lawful for such party and he is hereby entitled to demand from the registrar an inspection thereof, or a copy thereof or extract therefrom; and that on such payment and demand it shall be the duty of such registrar and he is hereby required to give, under his hand and seal of office, a copy of any such award or any other document to the person so demanding the same.

Office of Registrar, and Regulation of Business.

92. And be it enacted, with regard to the registrar of metropolitan buildings, so far as relates to his office or place of business, and to the regulation of the business thereof, that it shall be lawful for the Commissioners of Works and Buildings and they are hereby required to appoint, in some central and convenient situation within the city of *London* or the city of *Westminster*, an office for carrying on the business of the registrar of metropolitan buildings, and registering all documents relating to such business; and in such office it shall be the duty of such registrar, and he is hereby required,—

To keep a register of all matters referred to the official referees, and otherwise of all matters which shall come under their cognizance in pursuance of this Act; and also

To keep and preserve all documents connected with the duties of official referees; and also

To receive all notices requiring any act to be done by them, and to file and number them in the order in which they are received.

Registration of Awards, &c.

93. And be it enacted, with regard to all the awards and certificates, and all documents relating to the business of the official referees, so far as relates to the registration thereof, that the same shall be registered, not only chronologically in the order in which they are received, but according to the subject matters thereof, and also according to the order of and in relation to the provisions of this Act.

Remuneration of Official Referees and Registrar.

94. And be it enacted, with regard to such official referees and registrar, so far as relates to their remuneration, that it shall be lawful for her Majesty to grant to each of such official referees and the said registrar a salary not exceeding one thousand pounds by the year, in four equal quarterly payments; and that if any such official referee or such registrar shall be appointed, or shall die, resign, or be removed from office, in the interval between two quarterly days of payment, then he shall be entitled to a proportionate part of the salary for the period of such interval during which he shall hold such appointment.

Disqualification of Official Referees and Registrar—Offices vacant.

95. Provided always, and be it enacted, with regard to the said official referees and registrar, so far as relates to their qualifications, that if any person be or become commissioner, receiver, steward, or agent for or on behalf of any owner of houses within the limits of this Act, then such person shall not be eligible to the office either of official referee or of registrar under this Act, and that if after having been appointed thereto he shall become such commissioner, receiver, steward, or agent, then he shall cease to be qualified to hold such office of official referee or registrar, and thereupon such office shall be vacant, without prejudice, nevertheless, to any acts done by any such person in his capacity of official referee or registrar, so far as other persons are affected thereby.

Funds for defraying Expenses of the Official Referees and Registrar—Nature of Levy.

96. And forasmuch as the services of such official referees and of such registrar will be employed chiefly on behalf of the localities comprised within the limits of this Act, it is expedient to provide for the payment of a portion of their salaries by means of a county rate, or by a rate in the nature of a county rate, on such localities, in proportion to the assessed value of inhabited houses and buildings therein, or as near thereto as may be; now, for that purpose, be it enacted, with regard to such official referees and registrar, so far as relates to the payment of a portion of their salaries out of local funds, that it shall be lawful for the Lord Mayor and Aldermen of the city of *London* and they are hereby required to direct the chamberlain of the said city, and for the justices of the peace for the several counties of *Middlesex*, *Surrey*, and *Kent*, and they are hereby respectively required, to direct the treasurer of such respective counties to pay, by two half-yearly payments in the months of *June* and *December* in every year, to or into the hands of the cashier of the Commissioners of Works and Buildings, on account of the said official referees and of the said registrar, the several sums of money herein-after mentioned, as and by way of contribution to such salaries, that is to say,

The city of *London* and the liberties and the suburbs thereof	the sum of	£100
The county of *Middlesex*		1,000
The county of *Surrey*		320
The county of *Kent*		80
		1,500

And it shall be lawful for the said justices and they are hereby empowered and required to cause the same to be levied by a rate upon the several parishes and places within the limits of this Act, in such amounts as to such justices may seem proper, having regard to the assessed value of the inhabited houses and the buildings in such places respectively, in addition to the county rate in respect thereof; and that for the purpose of levying such sums they shall be deemed to be part of the county rate, and leviable by all the ways and means by which a county rate is leviable, and subject in all respects to the legal incidents of a county rate.

Payments of Official Referees and Registrar out of Consolidated Fund.

97. And be it enacted, further, with regard to the official referees and registrar, so far as relates to the payment of the balance of their salaries, that such balance shall be payable and paid out of the consolidated fund of the United Kingdom of *Great Britain* and *Ireland*.

Fees of Office, and Application thereof—Balance to Consolidated Fund—Regulations as to Receipt, Custody, and Accounts—List of Fees to be hung up.

98. And be it enacted, with regard to the fees payable to the registrar, so far as relates to the appointment thereof, and to the application thereof, that from time to time it shall be lawful for the Commissioners of the Treasury to appoint such fees to be paid in respect of the services to be performed by the said official referees or by the said registrar as shall be deemed requisite to defray the expenses of the said office, or incident to such services, and the salaries or other remuneration of any persons employed under the registrar in the execution of this Act, with the sanction of the commissioners of the treasury, and which are not otherwise provided for by this Act; and that the balance, if any, shall be carried to the consolidated fund of the United Kingdom, and be paid accordingly into the Receipt of her Majesty's Exchequer at *Westminster*; and that it shall be lawful for the Commissioners of the Treasury to regulate the manner in which such fees are to be received, and in which they are to be kept, and in which they are to be accounted for; and that it shall be the duty of the registrar and he is hereby required to cause a list of the fees so appointed by virtue of this Act to be fixed up in some conspicuous part of his office.

OFFICERS GENERALLY.

Appointments of Officers subject to Regulation by any future Act.

99. Provided always, and be it enacted, with regard to the officers appointed by or by virtue of this Act, so far as relates to the functions, appointment, and tenure of office of such officers, that any appointments to such offices which shall be made by virtue of this Act shall be made subject to any provision that may be made by any Act of Parliament hereafter to be passed for assigning other duties than those to be imposed by virtue of this Act; and such offices shall be held not only subject to the pleasure of the officers and justices by whom such appointments shall be made, but also subject to the provisions of any future Act of Parliament in relation thereto.

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS.

Informalities in Distress—Actions for Damages.

100. And now, for the purpose of regulating sundry legal proceedings, be it enacted, with regard to any distress for any sum of money to be recovered by virtue of this Act, so far as relates to the recovering of any damage

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